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ATTENDANCE AT THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Permit me to call the attention of your readers to a misstatement that appeared in the issue of December 24, 1909, to the effect that the attendance on the graduate school of Harvard University showed a loss as compared with the previous year. The error arose from the fact that in the figures for 1908 the graduate students at Radcliffe were included under Graduate Schools, whereas they were omitted in 1909 under the caption of graduate faculties, but included under women undergraduates. On November 1, 1908, there were 450 students at Radcliffe, of whom 394 were undergraduates and 56 graduates. Adding the latter to the enrollment in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences gave a total of 460. On November 1, 1909, there were 464 students at Radcliffe, of whom 402 were undergraduates and 62 graduates. Adding the latter to the enrollment in the Graduate School gives a total of 485, representing an increase of 25 over the figures of 1908. This year's attendance on the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences is the largest in the history of the institution.

RUDOLF TOMBO, JR.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

Encyclopédie des Sciences Mathématiques pures et appliquées, publiée sous les auspices des Académies des Sciences de Gottingue, de Leipzig, de Munich et de Vienne, avec la collaboration de nombreux savants. Édition française, rédigée et publiée d'après l'édition allemande sous la direction de JULES MOLK. Tome I., volume I., Arithmétique. Paris, Gauthier-Villars; Leipzig, B. G. Teubner. 1904.

It is customary to await the completion of a work before writing a review of it, but unusual conditions frequently call for unusual action. The greatness of the work before us and its wide range of contact with subjects familiar to all educated people seem to justify a brief review at this stage of its development; especially since such a review may be of serv-

ice to many who wish to take advantage of the various parts of the work as soon as possible, and since a large amount of work remains to be done before this first volume can be completed, although more than 600 pages of it have been published.

The German work upon which this French edition is based is the work of scholars of many different nations, so that the present work is decidedly international and it is appropriately issued by the two leading mathematical publishers in the world. The object of the German edition is to give as completely as possible the fully established mathematical *results* and to exhibit, by means of careful references, the historical development of mathematical *methods* since the beginning of the nineteenth century. The work is not restricted to the so-called pure mathematics, but it includes applications to mechanics, physics, astronomy, geodesy and the various technical subjects, so as to exhibit *in toto* the position occupied by mathematics in the present state of our civilization.

The French edition aims to retain the essential traits of the German, but it is not merely a translation with the addition of more recent references. On the contrary, it takes account of the French traditions and habits as regards lucid exposition and it treats many subjects very much more extensively than the German edition, while other subjects receive practically the same treatment in the two editions. Both editions are issued in parts—the first parts of the German edition were published in 1898, while those of the French began to appear six years later. The German edition has the advantage of much greater progress towards completion, while the French has a decided advantage as regards exhaustive treatment and more recent references, although these advantages are partly offset by the fact that the additions make the work more voluminous and hence less convenient as a work of reference.

Notwithstanding the fact that the Germans have acted as pioneers in this vast undertaking and have partially prepared the way for the French, yet the latter have had no easy task before them, and in some cases they have done